THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The internal consumption of natural gas during April 1999—Dec., 1999 by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) was 8.82 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) and 1.04 MMSCMD respectively.

The two companies utilise gas for meeting internal requirement of captive power generation, steam generation, operation of lift mechanism, production of value added products etc. Constant endeavour is made by these companies to keep the internal consumption of gas at the optimum level.

Gas supply Agreement with OIL

1636. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether signing of Gas Supply Agreement with Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has been lingering on for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any pending issues relating to the Gas Supply Agreement, which are to be cleared by Government; and

(d) if so, what are the issues and the action intiated by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Gas Supply Agreement between Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Reliance Assam Petrochemical Ltd. (RAPL) in respect of the Assam Gas Cracker Project has been under negotiation between the two companies since the last two years. While most of the issues were resolved, there has been disagreement between the companies on the provisions relating to liquidated damages.

(c) There is no issue relating to the Gas Supply Agreement pending with the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Reasons for Enhancing the Price of Natural Gas

1637. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the reasons due to which Government enhanced the price of Natural Gas from the existing